

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A golf club comprising a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion, and a sole portion connected to the face portion, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of a total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge, and a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion, the first outer shell member structured by a carbon fiber reinforced plastic material and the second outer shell member structured by a metal alloy; and

when an product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken as a second equivalent rigidity, a ratio of either the lower of the first

equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity to the higher is equal to or less than 0.75.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously presented) A method of designing a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion, and a sole portion connected to the face portion, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge; a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion; a product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity; and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken as a second equivalent rigidity, the method comprising the steps of:

holding in advance the characteristic data that expresses changes in initial ballistic characteristics of a golf ball caused when either of the first and second equivalent rigidities is changed while the other is kept constant;

using the held characteristic data to set a ratio between the first equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity in accordance with the initial ballistic characteristics of the golf ball struck by a golfer; and

employing two members that conform to the set ratio as the first and second outer shell members.

4. (Currently amended) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 3, wherein:

said characteristic data represents each of plural head speeds at which golfers strike golf balls;

said characteristic data is prepared for each of plural head speeds at which golfers strike golf balls; and

said ratio is set according to a head speed at which a golfer strikes golf balls.

5. (Currently amended) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 3, wherein:

said characteristic data represents each of plural loft angles of golf clubs;

said characteristic data is prepared for each of plural loft angles; and

said ratio is set according to a loft angle of the golf clubs.

6. (Previously presented) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 4, wherein:

a composite material in which a fiber reinforced plastic material is laminated is used for said first outer shell member and a metal alloy for said second outer shell member; and

said ratio is established by regulating an orientation angle of the composite material.

7-8. (Cancelled).

9. (New) The golf club according to claim 1 , wherein:
the face portion is structured by a metal alloy.

10. (New) A golf club comprising a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion, and a sole portion connected to the face portion, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of a total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge, and a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion, the face portion being structured by a metal alloy; and

when a product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken

as a second equivalent rigidity, a ratio of either the lower of the first equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity to the higher is equal to or less than 0.75.

11. (New) The golf club according to claim 10, wherein:

the golf club is included among a series of golf clubs adapted for different head speeds; and a composite material in which a fiber reinforced plastic is laminated is used for either or both of the first and second outer shell members, having an orientation angle of fibers thereof regulated according to a head speed so as to establish said ratio.

12. (New) The golf club according to claim 10, wherein:

the golf club is included among a series of golf clubs with different loft angles; and a composite material in which a fiber reinforced plastic is laminated is used for either or both of the first and second outer shell members, having an orientation angle of fibers thereof regulated according to a loft angle of the golf club so as to establish said ratio.